

# Byron L. Dorgan

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**He's a co-sponsor:**

## **DORGAN SUPPORTS LEGISLATION LIFTING SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — Legislation which would lift the earnings limit on senior citizens who receive Social Security benefits could clear Congress by the end of the month, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) said Wednesday.

Dorgan is a co-sponsor of the Senate legislation that would do away with the current rule that penalizes senior citizens between the ages of 64 and 70 who continue to work for pay by reducing their Social Security benefits by \$1 for every \$3 earned.

The U.S. House recently approved its version of the bill in a 422-0 vote, a vote Dorgan said indicates "a broad recognition that the current rules are out of date and need to be modernized to reflect the large number of senior citizens who remain active and continue working today."

"There is bipartisan support for doing this," Dorgan said, "and I think the Senate is going to move very quickly. I think the Senate will vote on it and, in my judgment, approve it by the end of March and send it to the President, who will sign it."

The bill would also create significant administrative savings, Dorgan noted. The Social Security Administration now allocates about 1,200 employees and \$150 million a year to administering the earnings limits.

This year, under current law, Social Security beneficiaries age 65-69 can earn up to \$17,000 without any reduction in their benefits. Seniors between those ages who earn more than \$17,000 this year lose \$1 in benefits for every \$3 they earn. There is no Social Security earnings limit for seniors age 70 and over. The legislation does not affect the separate earnings limit to early retirees who can receive Social Security benefits starting at age 62.

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